

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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R 200800Z AUG 77
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2476

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PDEV WA
SUBJECT: SWAPO OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON NAMIBIAN DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY:.. PETER KATJAVIVI, SWAPO SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY IN LONDON READS THE RESULTS OF SWAPO'S MEETING WITH CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK AS ENCOURAGING EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER TALKS BETWEEN TUNHALLE AND UNITA, REPRESENTATIVES AND ABOUT THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF NAMIBIA.END SUMMARY

2. SWAPO OFFICIAL PETER KATJAVIV OFFERED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS RELATING TO SWAPO ACTIVITIES TO AN EMOBFF ON AUGUST

2. REACTION TO MEETING WITH CONTACT GROUP: KATJAVIVI SPOKE ON PHONE WITH MEMBERS OF THE SWAPO DELEGATION NOW IN CONFIDENTIAL

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LONDON ON AUGUST 18. HE SAID THEY SEEMED VERY POSITIVE ABOUT THE NEW YORK TALKS. SWAPO WILL DISCUSS THE PROGRESS TO DATE AT A FULL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 13. KATJAVIVI QUERIED EMOBFF WHETHER HE COULD RETURN TO NAMIBIA AS EARLY AS OCTOBER 1977. HE NOTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME SWAPO IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AT LONG RANGE PLANS FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NAMIBIA. KATJAVIVI ADDED THAT IF THE

WESTERN INITIATIVE SHOULD FAIL, SWAPO WOULD BE SET BACK AT LEAST TEN YEARS.

3. TURNHALL-UNIT ALLIANCE: KATJAVIV RECENTLY SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN BOTSWANA WHERE HE HEARD THAT THE TURNHALLE GROUP IS PLANNING TO MEET IN OVAMBOLAND WITH UNITA REPRESENTATIVES HE SAID TURNHALL WOULD BE REPRESENTING SOUTH AFRICA INTERESTS AND THAT ITS PURPOSE MIGHT BE TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE DEAL BETWEEN PRETORIA AND UNITA. PRETORIA MIGHT HAVE IN MIND ASSURANCE TO UNIT OF ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT ONCE NAMIBIA IS INDEPENDENT BUT GOVERNED BY SAG "PUPPETS" (TURNHALLE) AND AFTER SAVIMBI DECLARED AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC OF SOUTHERN ANGOLA. SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT WOULD BE OFFERED IN EXCHANGE FOR SAVIMBI'S DENYING SWAPO BASES IN ANGOLA. KATJAVIV CONCEDED THAT AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN A UNITA-CONTROLLED SOUTHERN ANGOLA AND A TURNHALL-CONTROLLED NAMIBIA WOULD MAKE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR SWAPO TO MAINTAIN A GUERRILLA PRESENCE IN EITHER TERRITORY.

4. UN ROLE IN NAMIBIA: KATJAVI SAID SWAPO IS FULLY AWARE THAT NAMIBIA WOULD BE AN INFANT STATE AND WOULD NEED CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO MAINTAIN ITS ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE. HE SAID SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTORS ARE ALREADY TAKING MONEY OUT OF THE TERRITORY AND THIS IS CAUSING CONCERN WITHIN SWAPO KATJAVI EXPLAINED THAT THE CONTACT GROUP WAS UNDER THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT SWAPO WAS DRAGGING ITS HEELS BECAUSE

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SWAPO WAS AFRAID TO FACE FREE ELECTIONS. THE UN THEN COULD TURN OVER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING SERVICES IN A CAREFULLY PROGRAMMED MANNER SO AS TO LIMIT ECONOMIC DISRUPTION. IF A STEP BY STEP APPROACH MEANS INDEPENDENCE IN 1979, THIS WOULD BE FULLY ACCEPTABLE: THE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS STABILITY, NOT ANY PROPOSED DEADLINE IN 1978. THE LAST THING SWAPO WANTS IS A NAMIBIAN REPETITION OF ANGOLA'S ECONOMIC COLLAPSE.

5. PUBLICITY PLANS: SWAPO PLANS ON OPENING AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN LUSAKA BUT IS HAVING DIFFICULTY FINDING OFFICE SPACE. CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO OPENING AN OFFICE IN GABORONE, BUT THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT HAS DISCOURAGED THE IDEA BECAUSE THEY THINK THE OFFICE WOULD BE BLOWN UP. SWAPO IS ALSO STUDYING HOW IT CAN INJECT MORE PROPAGANDA INTO SOUTH AFRICA TO ALLAY WHITE FEARS THAT SWAPO REPRESENTS A DISORDERLY COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

6' COMMENT: KATJAVI, ACTIVE IN SWAPO FOR APPROXIMATELY 15 YEARS IN ARTICULATE AND SEEMINGLY WELL INFORMED. ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE STILL SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED IN THE NAMIBIAN DISPUTE, HE SEEMS AT LEAST

CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE
CONTACT GROUPS EFFORTS.
LOW

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PDEV, WA, SWAPO, (KATJAVIVI, PETER)
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